April 5, 1950

Honorable Clyde R. Hoey
United States Senate

Dear Senator:

The Columbia Basin Amendment to the Rivers and Harbors Bill, H.R. 5172, merits your support. Here is a brief outline of the facts which I feel fully substantiate this statement:

1. The Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reported the amendment on March 8th, by a bipartisan vote of 8 to 4.

The Committee amendment conforms closely to an amendment on the same subject cleared by Bureau of the Budget and supported by the Secretaries of Army and Interior and the Chief of Engineers and the Commissioner of Reclamation.

2. The Committee amendment is part of a comprehensive plan for development of the Columbia Basin - a comprehensive plan developed and coordinated by the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation over a period of many years.

The comprehensive plan and legislation to implement it has support of interested Federal agencies, the Governors of the states affected, Reclamation groups in the Basin, and Chambers of Commerce and other business interests. Most members of the delegations of the states involved are on record in support of the comprehensive plan.

3. The Rivers and Harbors Bill, as reported by the Senate Public Works Committee, already contains that portion of the comprehensive plan under jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. That portion under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation must be authorized or the unity of the plan is destroyed.

4. A device for pooling power costs and power revenues must be found if basin-wide uniform rates are to be maintained and if both Reclamation and Power development in the area are to achieve their full potential. By establishing the so-called "Basin Account" the Committee amendment accomplishes this objective.
5. There are many precedents for authorizing Reclamation projects in Omnibus Rivers and Harbors and Flood Control bills. A comprehensive plan for the Rio Grande Rivers was authorized in the 1948 bill. The Missouri Basin Plan was authorized in the 1944 Act.

I reiterate, the Committee (O"Hare) amendment of March 8th, authorizing the comprehensive plan for Columbia Basin development, merits your support.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, U.S.S.